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Industry Partnerships to Deploy Environmental Technology
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"Removing Barriers to Innovative Technologies"

Collaboration between the Southern States Energy Board and Office of Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, has resulted in a novel three-tiered approach to facilitate regulatory review and acceptance of innovative environmental technology. The approach is similar in some respects to the three-tiered approach that has been adopted in Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) voluntary cleanup programs.

The approach, implemented in technology verifications, integrates the problem set being addressed at a particular site; the environmental technology proposed for application to the problem set; and site- and state-specific data requirements. The three tiers are combined into a technology verification test plan and a technology verification statement following technology demonstration and analysis of resulting performance data. The technology verification statement provides a template for other states or sites who did not initially participate in the verification process. Verification of technology for subsequent applications at sites having similar technical problems and operational conditions becomes standardized and consistent, providing time and cost savings.

The Three-Tiered Approach to technology verification provides consistency and a degree of predictability of use of the technology across states and sites for technology holders. The technology verification statement provides a template for other states or for other sites who did not initially participate in the verification process. Tier 1 (environmental problem set) and Tier 2 (technology application to problem set) will not change for use of innovative technologies under similar conditions. States and sites need only consider their policy needs under Tier 3, enabling a tailoring of the strategy to meet specific needs while retaining the authority of the permit water or regulatory project manager. The systematic process of employing the strategy will provide a well-defined pathway to approaching regulatory acceptance problems.